B' cont'd

photodiodes 16 and 17 functioning as the first photodiode 5. The photodiodes 16 and 17 are arranged adjacent to each other in the X direction, and the photodiodes 18 and 19 are arranged adjacent to each other in the X direction.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 25, line 6 with the following:

Fig. 7 shows a plan view of semicircular beam receiving faces of two photodiodes of a monolithic photodiode device according to a fifth embodiment. As shown in Fig. 7, a monolithic photodiode device 23 is arranged in place of the first and second photodiodes 5 and 6. The monolithic photodiode device 23 is obtained by forming semicircular beam receiving faces of two photodiodes 24 and 25 on a monolithic photodiode substrate. The photodiode 25 functioning as the second photodiode 6 of the first embodiment is placed adjacent to the photodiode 24 functioning as the first photodiode 5 of the first embodiment. The beam receiving faces of the photodiode have chord edges 24a and 25a extending in the X direction perpendicular to both the optical axis (Z direction) and the photodiode arranging direction (Y direction), and the chord edges 24a and 25a of the photodiodes 24 and 25 face each other. Therefore, a group of the photodiodes 24 and 25 of the monolithic photodiode device 23 is formed approximately in a circular shape. Because the laser beam emitted from the semiconductor laser 1 is formed approximately in a circular shape, the shape of the laser beam approximately matches the shape of the beam receiving faces of the photodiodes 24 and 25. Therefore, the signal laser beam 2 emitted from the semiconductor laser 1 can be efficiently received by the beam receiving faces of the photodiodes 24 and 25 of the monolithic photodiode device 23.

B2